



Catherine B. Templeton, Director

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

July 23, 2012

PWE024-06

MEMORANDUM

TO: Midwives, Midwife Apprentices

FROM: Gwen C. Thompson, Director
Division of Health Licensing

SUBJECT: Provider Wide Exception - Alternative Healthcare Providers for Referrals and Consultations.

Section G.1 of Regulation 61-24, Licensed Midwives, states that, "The midwife shall, upon acceptance of a woman for care, require her to have two visits with a physician, community health center or health department." Section K states, "The midwife must be able at all times to recognize the warning signs of abnormal or potentially abnormal conditions necessitating referral to a physician. It shall be the midwife's duty to consult with a physician whenever there are significant deviations from the normal." Section L states, "At any time in the maternity cycle, the midwife shall obtain medical consultation, or refer for medical care, any woman who: . . ." Section M states, "The midwife shall obtain medical consultation from a physician for, or shall refer for medical care, any infant who: . . ."

In the interest of establishing reasonable standards that can be met by midwives and not compromise the quality of the care received by mothers choosing to give birth in out of hospital settings attended by midwives licensed by the Department, it has been determined that an alternative process will be considered as acceptable.

As an alternative to the requirement detailed in Sections G.1, K, L, and M of R.61-24, in addition to a physician, midwives may refer or consult with a Physician's Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, or a Certified Nurse Midwife. This relates solely to SC licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of this exception by the Department.

If there are any questions regarding the above, please call Michell Hatcher at (803) 545-4968.

GCT/ejc

cc: Pamela M. Dukes, Deputy Director, DHEC
Dennis Gibbs, DHEC
Michell Hatcher, DHEC